NCA
VOC FOR PGM/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5890 JUNE 6, 1978
BUI TUAN

THAILAND AND CHINA

ANNCR:

THAILAND AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAVE MOVED TO STRENGTHEN DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL TIES...AS WE HEAR IN THIS BACKGROUND REPORT BY VOA'S BUI TUAN.

VOICE:

THAI PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK CHAMANAND OBSERVED AT A RECENT DINNER HONORING PEKING'S AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND, CHAI TSE-MIN, THAT A NEW CHAPTER HAS BEEN OPENED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND CHINA. AMBASSADOR CHIA LEFT HIS POST IN BANGKOK TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE CHINESE LIAISON OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. THE KING OF THAILAND CONFERRED ONE OF HIS COUNTRY'S HIGHEST HONORS ON THE DEPARTING CHINESE DIPLOMAT FOR HIS WORK IN PROMOTING TIES BETWEEN CHINA AND THAILAND.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, IT'S BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE KIND AND QUEEN OF THAILAND AND THE KINGS'S MOTHER HAVE ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT CHINA. THE INVITATION WAS PASSED ON TO PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK DURING HIS VISIT TO PEKING EARLIER THIS YEAR. THAT VISIT CULMINATED IN THE SIGNING OF A TRADE AGREEMENT AND AN AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

A CHINESE TRADE DELEGATION WAS IN BANGKOK EARLIER THIS YEAR TO NEGOTIATE PURCHASE OF ABOUT 10 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF THAI TEXTILES. A THAI TRADE MISSION WILL TRAVEL TO PEKING LATER THIS MONTH AND ANOTHER CHINESE TRADE MISSION WILL VISIT THAILAND NEXT YEAR.

UNDER THE NEW TRADE AGREEMENT, THAILAND WILL BUY OIL PRODUCTS, CHEMICALS, MACHINERY, FARM TOOLS, METALS AND OTHER ITEMS FROM CHINA. CHINA, IN TURN, WILL IMPORT FROM THAILAND RUBBER AND

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